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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to transmit herewith to you a statement by an official source at the Foreign Ministry of the State of Qatar, dated 30 July 2001, concerning the State of Qatar's condemnation and denouncement of a group to lay down the foundation stone at the alleged Temple in the Al-Haram Al-Qudsi Al-Sharif (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40 and 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The State of Qatar, in its capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has expressed its disapproval and condemnation of the dangerous Israeli escalation exemplified by the decision of an extremist religious group to lay a cornerstone for the alleged Temple at the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. This is a provocation to religious sentiments and is to be regarded as an affront to the sanctity of the Islamic Holy Places and an act of wanton aggression against them.

In a statement to the Qatar News Agency, an authoritative source in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this criminal act is a violation of the sanctity of the Islamic Holy Places and of the heritage of human civilization. It is an open affront to the sentiments of the Arab and Muslim peoples of the world and may thus ignite the situation in the region, over and above the fact that it represents a violation of international law and custom.

The source appealed to the international community and to the Security Council and its permanent members to meet their responsibility to prevent such provocation.

The source urged the co-sponsors of the peace process, the United States and the Russian Federation, as well as the European Union to take immediate action to halt such grave outrages against the sanctity of Jerusalem and to create more appropriate conditions for a resumption of the peace process in the Middle East.

In concluding his statement, the source stressed that the State of Qatar, as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, would support the Palestinian people in its just struggle to regain its land and its legitimate rights in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace, and he called upon Israel to respond to all the international initiatives and efforts being made for the establishment of peace, security and stability in the Middle East region.